

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more properly reflect the invention in view of recently discovered prior art. An Information Disclosure Statement formally submitting this prior art has been filed under separate cover.

Support for the amendment to claims 1, 2, 17 and 18 can be found in the patent in column 4, line 57 to column 5, line 2.

The Amendments to claims 3-7 delete the article "A," replacing it with the article "The" in order to place these claims in compliance with US format. Likewise, identical amendments were made to claims 19-36.

Four new claims have been added. Support for new claim 37 can be found in the Specification of the patent at column 4, line 49-65.

Support for new claim 38 can be found in the Specification of the patent at column 5, lines 42-44 and column 4, line 49-65.

Support for new claim 39 can be found in the issued patent at column 6, lines 7-9. Support for new claim 40 also finds support in the Specification at column 6, lines 7-9, as well as at column 6, lines 16-22.

No new matter has been added.

All 36 of the originally issued claims are currently pending, whether or not amended by this application, as are the four (4) new claims, claims 37 to 40, presented herein.

In view of the above remarks, all of the claims remaining in the case are submitted as defining non-obvious, patentable subject matter.

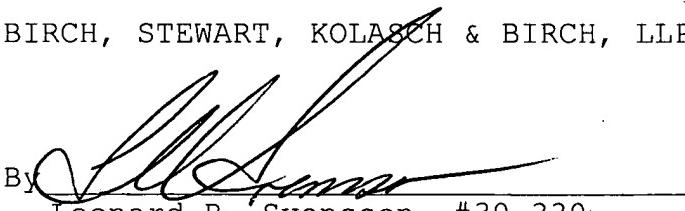
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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